

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 SAJ-01

TRSE-00 /078 W

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R 041500Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8186

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

DIA

UNCLAS ATHENS 2628

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GOG STATEMENT AND GREEK PRESS COVERAGE OF
LATEST TURKISH AERIAL PROVOCATIONS

REFS: ATHENS 2603 AND 2606

MIL ADDRESSES ALSO FOR POLAD

1. IN RESPONSE TO MOST RECENT REPORTS OF TURKISH AERIAL
INCURSIONS OVER GREEK AEGEAN ISLANDS, (REFTELS) GREEK MINISTRY
DEFENSE ISSUED FOLLOWING STATEMENT LAST NIGHT (APRIL 3)
QUOTE: CERTAIN TURKISH PROVOCATIONS IN THE AIR SPACE
RESUMED TODAY. THE GOVERNMENT IS FACING THEM WITH
ABSOLUTE CALM AND DECISIVENESS, BY TAKING ALL APPROPRIATE
MEASURES IN ALL SECTORS. A LARGE NUMBER OF VARYING RUMORS
WHICH HAVE CIRCULATED IN THIS CONNECTION TEND TO EXAGGERATE
CERTAIN FACETS OF THE WHOLE SUBJECT AND ALSO GIVE RISE TO
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NERVOUSNESS, WHICH IS INADMISSIBLE IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

END QUOTE.

2. PREDICTABLY, GREEK MORNING PRESS APRIL 4 GAVE FRONT-PAGE PROMINENT PLAY TO INCIDENTS. TO VIMA HEADLINED "AGAIN YESTERDAY TURKISH PROVOCATIONS OCCURRED IN THE AIR", KATHIMERINI INTRODUCED ITS STORY WITH HEADLINE "TURKISH FIGHTER PLANES VIOLATE AIR SPACE IN VICINITY KHIOS AND MYTILINI"; "NEW TURKISH VIOLATIONS OF OUR AIR SPACE" (AKROPOLIS); "PROVOCATIONS OF TURKISH MILITARISTS ESCALATING" WITH SUBHEADLINE "AMERICAN INSTIGATION FOR BLACKMAIL" (RIZOSPASTIS). IN KATHIMERINI REPORTING, SUGGESTION MADE THAT TURKS WISHED TO DEMONSTRATE THROUGH THEIR AERIAL OVERFLIGHTS THAT THEY NOT IMPRESSED BY APPEARANCE OF GREEK FLEET IN AEGEAN AND IN VICINITY OF TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS.

3. AFTERNOON PRESS APRIL 4 CONTINUE PLAY UP SAME THEME WITH FRONTPAGE BANNER HEADLINES. TA NEA STATES "OUR AIRCRAFT HAVE CHECKED NEW PROVOCATION OF THE TURKS; THEY WILL BE REPELLED AT THE FRINGES OF THE AEGEAN"; ATHINAIKI LEADS INTO ITS REPORT BY STATING "NEW TURKISH PROVOCATIONS FACED DECISIVELY: WE ARE READY FOR EVERYTHING: STRONG UNITS OF OUR FLEET AT KHIOS, LESVOS, AND SAMOS"; "TURKISH PROVOCATIONS STUDIED WITH COOLNESS" (APOYEVMATINI); AND "PRESIDENT FORD INTERVENES IN GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE" (VRADYNI). THIS LAST HEADLINE ACTUALLY REFERS TO PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT, SAN DIEGO, 3 APRIL IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS WITHIN OVERALL CONTEXT CYPRUS PROBLEM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, MILITARY BUILDUP, AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, AEGEAN SEA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS02628
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750118-0519
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750483/aaaacxcq.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ATHENS 2603, 75 AND 2606
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOG STATEMENT AND GREEK PRESS COVERAGE OF LATEST TURKISH AERIAL PROVOCATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006